

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing
(day/month/year)

03 DEC 2003

Applicant's or agent's file reference

7175-69374

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/US01/44194

International filing date (day/month/year)

27 November 2001 (27.11.2001)

Priority date (day/month/year)

29 November 2000 (29.11.2000)

Applicant

HILL-ROM SERVICES, INC

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US
Commissioner for Patents
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

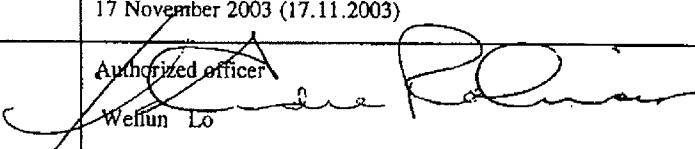
Applicant's or agent's file reference 7175-69374	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US01/44194	International filing date (day/month/year) 27 November 2001 (27.11.2001)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 November 2000 (29.11.2000)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): A61M 1/00 and US Cl.: 604/305		
Applicant HILL-ROM SERVICES, INC		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the report
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 06 June 2002 (06.06.2002)	Date of completion of this report 17 November 2003 (17.11.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer  WeiJun Lo Telephone No. 703-306-0858

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/44194

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-27 as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims:
pages 28-32, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1-17, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☒ the description, pages NONE
- ☒ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/44194**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>4, 6, 7, 13-23, 26, 28, 33 and 35</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-3, 5, 8-12, 24, 25, 27, 29-32, 34 and 36-42</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>4, 6, 7, 12-23, 26, 28, 33 and 35</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-3, 5, 8-12, 24, 25, 27, 29-32, 34 and 36-42</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-42</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, 24, 25, 27, 29-32, 34, 36-42 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Gross (US 5,549,584 A).

Regarding claims 1, 25 and 40, Gross teaches a thin flexible member (18) for use in a vacuum bandage (10) on a wound surface with the bandage (18) connected to a vacuum source (12), the member (18) having a wound contacting surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface, and a plurality of holes (46) spaced about the wound contacting surface (44), and the member (18) providing communication from the holes (46) to the vacuum source (12).

Regarding claims 2 and 32, Gross teaches passageways (48).

Regarding claims 3, 27, 29 and 37-39, see col. 4, lines 25 and 26.

Regarding claim 5, Gross teaches spacers (44).

Regarding claims 8 and 30, Gross teaches spacers (44) with channels (46).

Regarding claims 9-11, 31, 34, 36, 41 and 42, Gross teaches a central port (28) and a cover (42).

Regarding claim 12, see col. 5, line 21.

Regarding claim 24, see figure 4.

Regarding claim 34, Gross teaches a sealing film (18).

Claims 4, 6, 7, 12-23, 26, 28, 33 and 35 meet the criteria set under PCT Article 33(2)-(4) because the prior art of record, wither alone or in combination, does not anticipate nor make obvious the claimed subject matter.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

US 5,964,723 A (Augustine) 12 October 1999, figure 8B.

US 4,460,370 (Allison et al.) 17 July 1984, figure 4.